



*Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Embassy, Wellington*

February 14, 2007

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY IN ACTION

United States Ambassador William McCormick visited New Zealand Steel's plant at Glenfield, south of Auckland, on Tuesday, February 13 as the guest of New Zealand Steel President, Bill Jacob.

After touring the plant's Hot Rolling Mills, Ambassador McCormick commented on how impressed he was with the company's operations.

"I was particularly impressed by New Zealand Steel's commitment to making heavy industry environmentally friendly -- recycling and energy conservation are key aspects of their operation," he said.

The Ambassador added that the company's efforts were a perfect example of the private sector being responsible and tackling head-on the issue of climate change which affects us all.

"The Glenfield facility combines environmental responsibility and sustainable economic growth. It's an impressively high-tech company producing world-class products in a beautiful Kiwi setting."

Ambassador McCormick gets away from his Wellington base regularly and travels around New Zealand, meeting with local community and business leaders, and talking with local schoolchildren and college students.

Accompanying Ambassador McCormick on the tour were John Desrocher, U.S. Consul General in Auckland, Tom Walsh, U.S. Embassy Economic Officer, and Mike Hearn, Executive Director of the American Chamber of Commerce in New Zealand.